

BOTULISM

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** Ingestion of botulinum toxin resulting in an illness of variable severity. Common symptoms are double vision, blurred vision, difficulty swallowing and dry mouth. Symmetric flaccid paralysis may progress rapidly.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Laboratory confirmation of botulism or a diagnosis without laboratory confirmation if the clinical and epidemiologic evidence is overwhelming.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Detection of botulinum toxin in serum, stool or suspect food, **OR**
 - Isolation of *Clostridium botulinum* from stool.
- D. **CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed or that occurs among persons who ate the same food as persons with laboratory-confirmed botulism.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by electronic submission or by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
Kentucky Reportable Disease Form – EPID 200 (Jan/03).
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Immediate treatment required for case patient. Contact the Communicable Disease Branch 502-564-3261 for protocol on receiving botulism antitoxin. **After hours, call 1-888-973-7678 for emergency contact numbers.**

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH:** 502-564-3261.

- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND COSMETICS BRANCH: 502-564-7181.
- C. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. BOTULISM. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 70-75.
2. Pickering LK, ed. Clostridial Infections. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2000: 212-214.